

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An injection device, comprising:
an outer housing inside which is located:
a barrel for holding a dose of a medicament;
a needle at one end the barrel, the needle and barrel being such that at least part of the needle is axially moveable in and out of said outer housing but is biased to be normally wholly inside said housing;
a plunger, axially moveable within the barrel;
an inner housing intermediate the outer housing and the barrel and plunger; and
an energy source in communication with said inner housing,
wherein the inner housing is moveable by the energy source and operates in three modes, namely
a first mode in which the inner housing is in contact with and acts on the barrel such that, in use, the plunger and barrel move axially so as to move at least part of said needle out of the outer housing, wherein in the first mode the inner housing moves with the plunger and the barrel, and wherein in the first mode the inner housing, the plunger and the barrel move relative to the outer housing;
a second mode in which the inner housing is in contact with and acts on the plunger to move the plunger axially but not the barrel such that, in use, said plunger moves axially into said barrel so as to expel medicament through the needle, wherein in the second mode the inner housing moves with the plunger; and
a third mode in which the inner housing acts on neither the plunger nor the barrel such that, in use, the plunger and barrel retract relative to the inner housing and the outer housing in order to retract the needle into the outer housing, wherein in the third mode and while the plunger and barrel retract the position of the outer housing relative to the energy source is fixed, and wherein as a result of said plunger and barrel retracting said needle is retracted such that said at least part of said needle moved out of the outer housing in said first mode is retracted into the outer housing.

2. (Original) An injection device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said inner housing includes one or more flexible tags, biased radially inwardly by communication with said outer housing.

3. (Original) An injection device as claimed in claim 2 wherein one or more of said tags are situated at the rear end of the inner housing and are biased radially inwardly into communication with the plunger.

4. (Original) An injection device as claimed in claim 3 wherein each rear tag is moveable out of communication with the plunger when aligned with a corresponding recess in the outer housing.

5. (Original) An injection device as claimed in claim 4 wherein each rear tag is substantially T-shaped.

6. (Original) An injection device as claimed in claim 2 wherein one or more of said tags are situated at the forward end of the inner housing and are biased radially inwardly into communication with the barrel.

7. (Original) An injection device as claimed in claim 6 wherein each forward tag is moveable out of communication with the barrel when aligned with a corresponding recess in the outer housing.

8. (Previously presented) An injection device as claimed in claim 7 wherein each forward tag is substantially L-shaped.

9. (Previously Presented) An injection device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said energy source is a compressed gas.

10. (Previously Presented) An injection device as claimed in Claim 1 further

including means for allowing the inner housing to move axially only forward with respect to the outer housing.

11. (Original) An injection device as claimed in claim 10 wherein said means is an arrangement of serrations intermediate the housings.

12. (Previously Presented) An injection device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said needle is biased to be normally wholly inside said housing by means of a spring intermediate the barrel and the outer housing.

13. (Previously Presented) An injection device as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said needle, barrel and plunger are removable from said device.

14. (Previously Presented) An injection device as claimed in Claim 1 further including a removable needle cover which protects the needle during storage before use.

15. (Original) An injection device as claimed in claim 14 wherein said needle cover includes means for pulling a protective rubber sheath or the like from said needle when said needle cover is removed from the device.

16-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering an injection, comprising:
providing an injection device comprising:
a barrel for holding a dose of a medicament;
a needle at one end the barrel, the needle and barrel being such that at least part of the needle is axially moveable in and out of an outer housing but is biased to be normally wholly inside the outer housing;
a plunger, axially moveable within the barrel;
an inner housing intermediate the outer housing and the barrel and
plunger; and

an energy source which acts on the inner housing;

activating the energy source;

engaging the barrel with a first portion of the inner housing and moving the barrel and the plunger axially in a first direction by means of the inner housing, wherein the inner housing moves with the plunger and the barrel, and wherein the inner housing, the plunger and the barrel move relative to the outer housing, wherein at least a part of the needle is moved out of the outer housing, and wherein the first portion of the inner housing and a second portion of the inner housing are separated by a first distance while the barrel and the plunger are moved axially in the first direction;

after moving the barrel and the plunger axially in the first direction, preventing further axial movement of the barrel in the first direction while engaging the plunger with the second portion of the inner housing and moving the plunger axially in the first direction by means of the inner housing, wherein the plunger moves within the barrel causing medicament to be expelled through the needle, and wherein the first portion of the inner housing and the second portion of the inner housing are separated by the first distance while the plunger is moved axially in the first direction within the barrel causing medicament to be expelled through the needle, and wherein the inner housing moves with the plunger;

after causing medicament to be expelled through the needle, disengaging the inner housing from the plunger and retracting the needle into its biased position wholly inside the outer housing, wherein retracting the needle into its biased position wholly inside the outer housing includes retracting the plunger and the barrel relative to the inner housing and the outer housing.